

From Fort Rupert.

The Hudson Bay Company's steamer Otter, Captain Swanson, arrived yesterday from Fort Rupert, which place she left on Wednesday last.

The steamer Labouchere was awaiting the arrival of the Otter at Fort Rupert, and having received on board the goods taken up by the Otter, would start northward to resume her trading operations. She had been so far tolerably successful, and had everywhere found the natives peaceably disposed.

A serious fire had occurred in the Indian camp at Fort Rupert, which, although it only extended to three or four houses, was attended with loss of life and the destruction of considerable property belonging to the natives. The following account of the catastrophe is given by an eye-witness:

"We had a great fire here the other day in the camp. Four Indian houses were burnt to the ground. A woman carelessly left a small lamp burning close to her bed, and, falling asleep, it caught one of the mats and set the whole place in a blaze. The poor girl was locked up in her shanty by some young fellow who was jealous of her. She got most terribly burnt before she escaped, and after jumping into the water, she was nearly drowned. Her property was consumed, on a rough calculation, 2,000 blankets were destroyed."

We learn that the fire at one time threatened the destruction of the Fort itself, and Mr. Compton and the men belonging to the Fort were waiting in their exertions to extinguish the flames. Mr. Compton is also said to have acted with great presence of mind, and Capt. Lewis and the Officers of the Labouchere were on the spot and rendered valuable aid.

The steamer was still surveying on the opposite coast. They had visited Fort Rupert a few days before, and were well all.

The Indians were everywhere reported quiet.

The weather during this trip of the Otter had been beautiful until within the last three days, when it commenced to blow a gale from south-east with rain.

A small schooner, supposed to be the Nonpareil, was sighted in Johnson Straits.

COMA.

The Otter on her return called in at Comox. Mr. McTavish and Capt. Swanson went on shore and visited one of the settlers who seemed happy and content, having a wife and a group of olive branches to cheer his rustic brood. The only matter of complaint, and one in which the settlers unite in raising a cry of discontent, is the total absence of all communication with the civilized world. The only way of getting news is through an unfounded rumor that the new Legislature will deal with this serious grievance, and subsidize a steamer or regular packet between the utter isolation of their position drives them from their newly adopted homes.

STRANGE DEATH.—A Norwegian, Martin Hanson, met his death while engaged digging a well at Myers place, on Lopez Island, on the 5th inst. The night before he had reached a depth of 72 feet, and when he came to the surface remarked a singular smell below. Next morning at 6 o'clock he resumed work, and while being lowered, when about half-way down, again spoke of the same smell, but persisted in going on. When near the bottom, he fell from the bucket apparently asleep, his breath could be heard for several hours, like snoring. A Mr. Nelson went below 7 times to his assistance, and succeeded in getting a rope around his body, but lost it, being hampered by the rope. The rescue seemed rather hopeless. Information being brought to this post, Captain Bissell sent a detail of men to assist in recovering the body, which they succeeded in doing by means of hooks. The body was brought up at about 9 o'clock the morning of the 6th, having been 22 hours in the well. At first it was stiff and much discolored, but soon after washing and rubbing resumed its natural color and appearance, looking exactly as if it was asleep. It was found to have been the same person, rather asleep. Information being brought to this post, Captain Bissell sent a detail of men to assist in recovering the body, which they succeeded in doing by means of hooks. The body was brought up at about 9 o'clock the morning of the 6th, having been 22 hours in the well. At first it was stiff and much discolored, but soon after washing and rubbing resumed its natural color and appearance, looking exactly as if it was asleep. It was found to have been the same person, rather asleep.

NEW COPPER MINE.—The Otter brings intelligence of the discovery of a rich vein of copper ore on Ovidio Island, some thirty miles north of Nanaimo, by Captain Stewart, an old resident of the latter place. The vein was first discovered by an Indian, who made it known to Captain S., by whom it was prospected. It is eighteen inches thick, apparently increasing in width as it goes down, and consists of the variety known as "peacock ore." It is supposed to be a very rich specimen, containing probably seventy-five per cent. of metal. Capt. Stewart started for Victoria on Friday morning last in a large canoe, manned by Llydian Indians, bringing with him a small party of men. He was accompanied by a small party of men. He was accompanied by a small party of men. He was accompanied by a small party of men.

NEW DIGGINGS.—FROM THE "BRITISH COLONIST." On arriving at Hope, where the steamer made a pause of half an hour, we were greeted with the cheering news of fresh gold discovered in the vicinity of the latter place. The gold is somewhat coarser than that obtained from Hill's Bar, and was saved without the use of quicksilver; but doubtless the finer dust had escaped for lack of the assistance of that metal. These diggings accessible in the way is known as the Sheswag country, on a creek emptying into the head-waters of the Thompson, and were recently struck. They pay variously from \$10 to as high as \$10 a day to the rocker.

ON THE VILLAINS' CAUGHT. Good news, too, awaited us on our arrival here (Yale). One of the villains concerned in the murder of poor Clegg, if not the veritable scoundrel who perpetrated the brutal act, was secured on Sunday last at Cornwall's ranch, on the Bonaparte. A driver came across him while looking after his stock, and, being told that he was a villain, he was taken to the jail at Lillooet. Upon his person was found Clegg's revolver, upon which his name was found engraved. His comrade is wounded and is still believed to be hiding about some part of the country, where there is little doubt but he will be captured, as the Indians as well as whites are on the watch. If both these men are secured and their deserts meted out to them, the lesson will be valuable and salutary one to all of their ilk.

THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE. This noble structure, which does credit at once to the Government, the contractor and the engineer, and is to be opened formally on Monday, was inspected by Lieut. Palmer, R.E., and accepted on behalf of the Government on Saturday last. A further inspection with a load of three tons weight was driven over as a sort of test, both Lieut. Palmer and Mr. Halliday taking observations, but the deflection was inappreciable, not amounting to one-fourth of an inch.

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The steamers Caledonia and Enterprise arrived on Saturday, with a good number of returned Caribboos and about \$80,000 in gold, by Express and in private hands.

Among the passengers on the Caledonia was Mr. David Edgar, of the firm of Edgar & Aime of this city, who left Richmond on the evening of the 24th instant, and from whom we have the following information:

Several claims were reported to have struck pay dirt at the lower end of the creek. There had been a considerable fall of rain, which had slightly raised the water on the creek, and caused some inconvenience to claims on the lower portion of the stream.

The Ruby Company were taking out good pay. This claim had cost \$30,000 to open. An interest was reported to have been sold to Dr. Foster for \$8,000.

The Adams Company had struck pay dirt. The Barnes Tunnel was again at work and paying well.

The Prince of Wales Company had struck a rich prospect. This was looked on as a very promising company.

Nearly all the old claims were paying about the same as usual.

The reported discoveries of quartz had created no excitement.

Mr. Cary had bought into the Cornish Company, an old bill claim. An injunction had been laid upon this claim, but it was thought that permission would be obtained from the Gold Commissioner to work it.

Trade was quiet, though stocks on the creeks were not large. Considerable supplies were on the way. Prices remained unchanged.

It was estimated that from 600 to 1000 men intended to winter on the creek.

The weather had latterly, with the exception of two or three days rain, been fine. The nights were cold and frosty.

Sickness was rather prevalent. Two persons, whose name our informant did not learn, had died.

Judge Begbie and Commissioner O'Reilly were on the creek; the former was holding court.

Rather a novel feature in the shape of a prize fight between two Cornishmen, took place on the 31st ult. After a rough and tumble sponge war, thrown up and the whisky bottle passed. The combatants thereupon shook hands and became the best of friends.

OTHER CREEKS. There was nothing new to report from the other creeks.

GOLD RESORT. Mr. Edgar met the Escort on Monday last about four miles above Clinton. They discovered a new place, the capture of the stolen horse (elsewhere mentioned). The thieves were only caught by smart riding. The white man who was captured had a hard runnily appearance, sufficient to induce any man with a mind to rest on a solitary road to give him a well-earned thrashing.

EXPRESS POST. Some excitement was caused by the circumstance of the Yale Express having been lost aboard in an attempt to place it on board the steamer Reliance, on Friday last. The steamer, it would seem, left the wharf with a heavy load, and the express was put off with it in a canoe, but while handing it up, by some misfortune the bag dropped into the river. The river at that particular point is 30 feet deep, and it was believed that the express was recovered. The amount of treasure it contained is not at present ascertained, but it is thought to be small.

PEACE RIVER. Mr. McBride, with an exploring party from Peace River, were met at the mouth of Quenelle, having just returned from Peace River, where they said they could find diggings varying from \$10 to \$100 per day, and was by no means a desirable country to remain in, and mostly all the prospectors were leaving it.

BENTINCK ARM ROUTE. Mr. Edgar met Poole and Luman's train of Cayoosh horses not far from Beaver Pass. They had come through from Bentinck Arm in 32 days. The animals were in good condition.

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Yesterday afternoon the handsome edifice on Cormorant, erected by our fellow-townsmen of the Jewish faith, for the celebration of Divine service in conformity with the ritual of the Hebrew Church, was solemnly consecrated in the presence of the Congregation. A large number of citizens, who thronged the building and evinced the deepest interest in the ceremony.

The following was the order of service observed on the occasion. The choir, under the leadership of Professor St. Clair, rendered the chants with great effect. At the termination of the proceedings Dr. Cohen delivered an impressive sermon.

ORDER OF SERVICE. The Minister, with assistants bearing the scrolls of the Laws, knelt at the entrance door of the Synagogue three times, saying—Open for me the gates of Righteousness that I may enter through them to praise the Lord; this is the gate into which the righteous shall enter.

On entering the Synagogue, the Reader and Choir will say—Blessed be he who cometh in the Name of the Lord; We bless you, O Lord, who have created the world, naturally or artificially, it will be a mere waste of time and seed to sow or plant any crop. In case nature fails to supply the necessary amount, recourse must be had to artificial means. The watering pot, the system is quite inefficient on a large scale, the cultivator must look about for other and more effectual means for supplying the wants of the soil.

The following are some of the principal crops of vegetables that are likely to be raised, to succeed with autumn tillage. Success will, however, materially depend on the state of the soil, more especially on the amount of moisture contained therein; indeed, without a sufficient amount of water, the natural element of the watering pot, naturally or artificially, it will be a mere waste of time and seed to sow or plant any crop. In case nature fails to supply the necessary amount, recourse must be had to artificial means. The watering pot, the system is quite inefficient on a large scale, the cultivator must look about for other and more effectual means for supplying the wants of the soil.

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Monday Morning, September 14, 1903.